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APOTHECARY SERVICE CRITICIZED

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apothecary stores and centers are not actual outlet stores but are in fact retail stores who buy from the central apothecary store at Krasnoye Selo. Decree No 76 of the Ministry of Health USSR was issued in an attempt to stop this type of operation. Three months have passed since the proclamation of the decree, but no change is in evidence in the dealings of the Krasnoye Selo Apothecary Store.

Moreover, the Krasnoye Selo Apothecary Store is classed as an "un-liquidated store." That is to say, it has on hand several thousand rubles' worth of heliotrope extract, apomorphine, heroin, opium with sugar, and "1" which the Oblast Apothecary Administration is supposed to take back. However, no one wants to do anything about the disposal of these articles.

The Apothecary Administration intends to establish 96 new apothecary centers and to convert 257 (retail) outlet stores into apothecary centers -- V. Viktorov, Leningrad.

In Kursk the apothecary service has improved a great deal after reorganization in accordance with the recent Ministry of Health USSR decree. However, the supply service is still poor and in need of improvement. One of the most common reasons for poor supply to backwoods regions is the lack of prepared medicines as well as the shortage of proper equipment for compounding prescriptions. Moreover, there is poor liaison between manufacturer and consumer; for example, there is a glass factory in Kursk which could easily fill the requirements of the Kursk Apothecary Service. However, the factory's output is consigned to Khar'kov, and Kursk apothecaries have to rely on eastern glass factories for their glassware supplies.

The warehouses of the Apothecary Administration have a good stock of medicines on hand. However, they cannot be shipped to rural apothecary centers and other apothecaries due to the lack of means of transportation. There are two Kursk factories, one a glass factory and the other a pharmaceutical factory, which have 12 trucks in their auto pool. However, only two of them are being used. This presents a definite problem as the Kursk Apothecary Administration depends upon these two trucks to supply medicines and other items to 125 apothecaries, 220 apothecary centers, and 900 retail outlets serving various rural surgeon's assistants stations -- S. Khatskevich, Chief, Oblast Department, Main Administration for Apothecaries, Kursk.

Many of the large cities have excellent facilities for producing pharmaceutical goods. One of these is the Kazan' Pharmaceutical Factory which is under the jurisdiction of the GAFU (Main Administration for Apothecaries). However this great industrial giant is not doing its share. At present, only one shift is working, and many of the apothecaries do not have many of the more common medicines because of low factory output. The answer to this problem is simple. The Kazan' Factory has no interest in bringing about any improvement in the apothecary service. Many of the apothecaries are in difficult financial positions due to a low turnover of goods. Until the factories produce more, there cannot be a greater turnover, and the present situation will continue.

Frequently, oblast apothecary warehouses and municipal apothecary warehouses are housed under the same roof. This adds to the confusion and in no way simplifies matters. Frequently, the municipal section of the warehouse is able to fill its orders before the oblast section. Whether this is accomplished legally or illegally, it adds to the ill feeling between oblast and municipal agencies. It is suggested that many of the difficulties can be overcome by putting the municipal apothecary warehouses under the jurisdiction of the oblast apothecary warehouses. Thus, the needs of the oblast would be met and the backwoods regions would get their share of medical preparations -- A. Fudin, Kazan'.

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